

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A SMIF box for storing a reticle is described, including a base pedestal for holding a reticle and a box cover fitting with the base pedestal. The box cover includes an O-ring between the base pedestal and the box cover for hermetically sealing the SMIF box, and may further include a drying agent. A reticle loading system is also  
5 described, including an SMIF box mentioned above and a hermetic SMIF box loader.